



DownEast Regional Airport



Interagency Coordination Meeting

March 14, 2006

Presented by:
Edwards and Kelcey - VHB



Project Background

Maine Aviation System Plan Update

- Defined airport service areas and gaps in coverage**
- Identified the need for an all-weather airport to serve the DownEast region**
- Need for Level One Airport**

Machias Valley Airport Site Assessment Study (2004)



Project Purpose

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide the Machias area with an all-weather Level 1 General Aviation Airport.



Project Need

The need for a Level 1 airport to accommodate the aviation demand in the Machias region has been identified in the State Aviation System Plan

Machias is a Primary Service Center for the Downeast Region (OSP)



Project Need

Because of the deficiencies of the existing airport and because it is not reasonable to improve the existing airport to meet FAA standards or the requirements of a Level 1 airport, the proposed action is to relocate the airport.



Existing Airport Constraints

- Wetlands
- Machias River
- Route 1
- Existing development
- Terrain





Existing Airport Deficiencies

- **2,900-foot Runway**
- **Deteriorated Pavement**
- **No parallel taxiway**
- **No fuel services**
- **Inadequate hangar/tiedown space**
- **Poor wind coverage**
- **Lacks ILS or adequate runway lighting**



Level 1 All-Weather Airport

- **5,000-foot Runway**
- **Accommodate Category C aircraft**
- **Full parallel taxiway**
- **Precision runway approach**
- **Snow removal equipment**
- **Fuel facilities**
- **Tie-downs and T-hangars**
- **FBO space (charter, maintenance, repair)**



Preliminary Alternatives Analysis

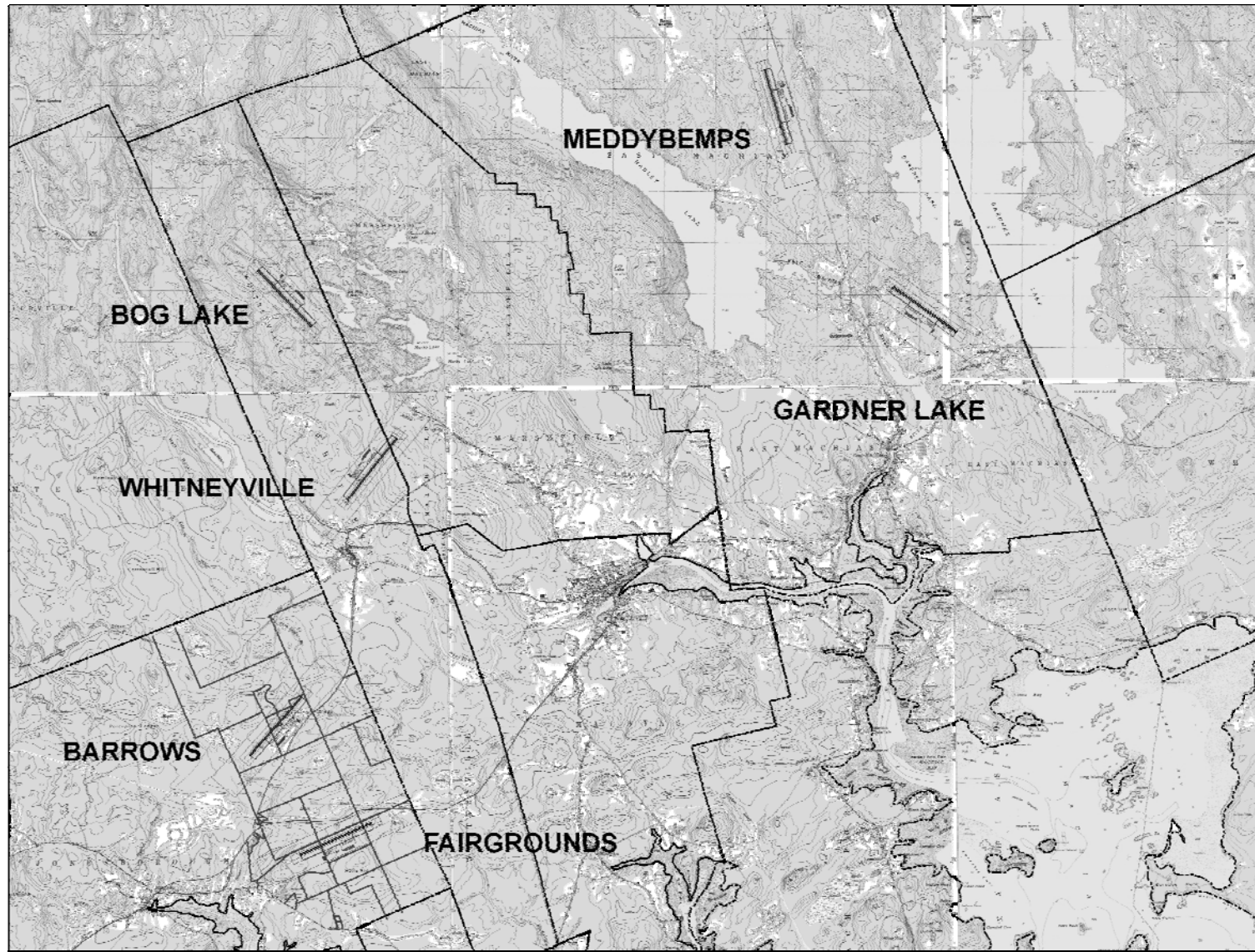
- Site screening process
- Aviation and environmental factors
 - Wind coverage
 - Topography (cuts/fills)
 - Wetland impacts (NWI)
 - Proximity to Residences



Preliminary Alternatives Analysis

- **Improve Other Regional Airports**
 - Deblois Flight Strip
 - Eastport Municipal Airport
 - Lubec Municipal Airport
- **Replacement Airport Sites**

**DownEast Regional Airport
MASTER PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**





Alternatives Evaluated and Rejected

- Gardner Lake – T, W, O
- Meddybemps – T, W, O
- Bog Lake – T, O
- Whitneyville – T, W

Legend

T = Terrain

W= Wetlands

O= Orientation



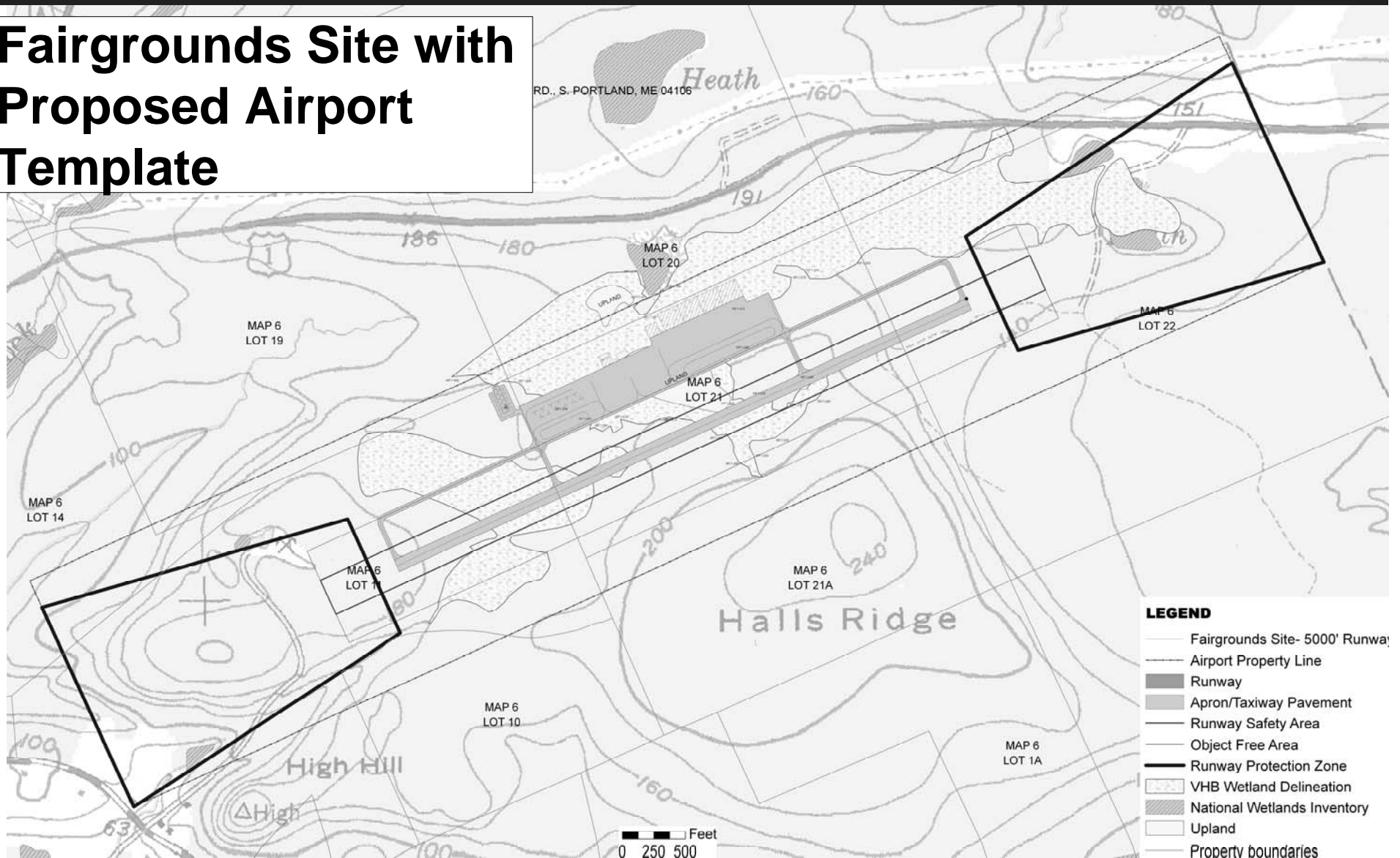
Alternatives Advanced into EA

- **Fairgrounds Site**
- **Hawkins Ridge Site**
- **No-Action Alternative (rehabilitate existing runway)**

DownEast Regional Airport
MASTER PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

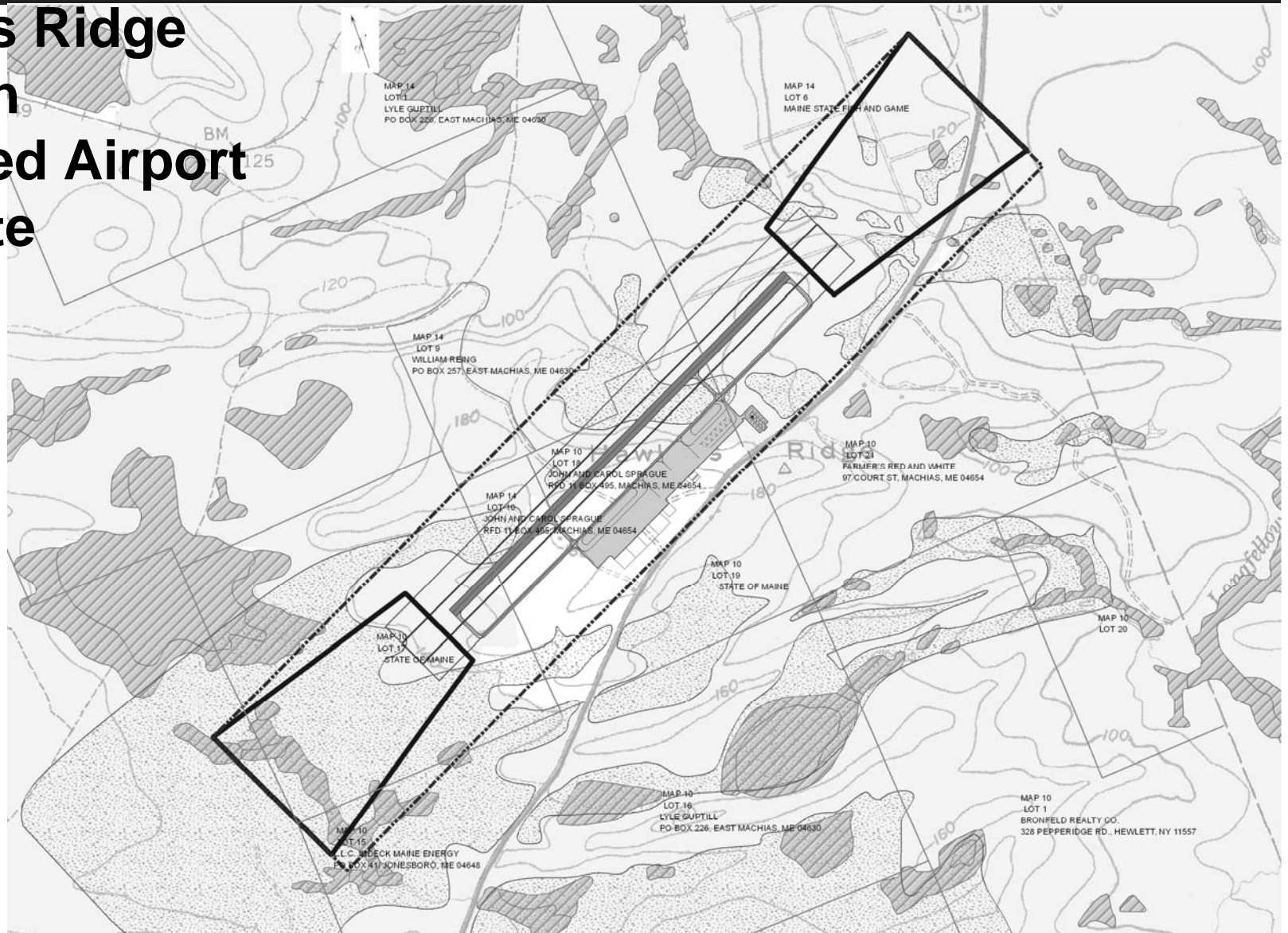


Fairgrounds Site with Proposed Airport Template





Hawkins Ridge Site with Proposed Airport Template





Key Environmental Impacts

	Wetland	Agricultural Land	Wildlife Management Area Land
Fairground Site	48.4 ac	No	No
Hawkins Ridge Site	31.4 ac	Yes	Yes



Environmental Analysis/Issues

- Complete noise assessment
- Evaluate wetland impacts
- Evaluate wildlife impacts
- Wetland mitigation
- State Land Acquisition
- Property Acquisition



Next Steps

- **Agency Feedback**
- **Land Acquisition Resolution**
- **Public Outreach**
- **Mitigation Opportunities**
- **Document Preparation**



Environmental Analysis Process

- **Initial Planning**
 - Purpose
 - Preliminary Alternatives

- **Draft EA**
 - No-Action (repave existing airport) **June 2006**
 - Fairgrounds
 - Hawkins Ridge

- **Final EA**
 - No-Action **August 2006**
 - Preferred Alternative (proposed action)

- **FONSI**
 - Funding for land acquisition **September 2006**
 - Design
 - Construction